



Fw: questions from AP

David Polish to: Ron Borsellino, Kathy Hodgkiss, Helen Duteau, Michael Kulik

02/21/2012 09:07 AM

From: David Polish/R3/USEPA/US
To: Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Helen Duteau/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

FYI

Very respectfully,

David Polish

"I've noticed that even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road." Steven Hawking
----- Forwarded by David Polish/R3/USEPA/US on 02/21/2012 09:05 AM -----

From: "Rubinkam, Michael" <mrubinkam@ap.org>
To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Trish Taylor/R3/USEPA/US, David Polish/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/20/2012 11:03 AM
Subject: questions from AP

Hi Terri,

As you know, I observed the EPA investigation in Dimock last week. I have some questions:

1. The EPA said in its news release that it is sampling residents' water to "further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns." What will the agency do if it finds hazardous substances in additional wells? It's vital that I be able to answer this question.

2. Will this sampling allow EPA to make a determination as to how the substances got in the water, and who is to blame for putting them there?

3. What are the classes of substances that EPA is testing for (e.g. VOCs, metals)?

4. I'd ask you to respond to Cabot's assertions about EPA and the data points that EPA used to justify its action in Dimock:

http://www.cabotog.com/pdfs/Cabot_Statement_EPAWaterDelivery.pdf

Cabot's objection to the EPA investigation is summed up by this line:

"It appears that EPA selectively chose data on substances it was concerned about in order to reach a result it had predetermined. EPA chose to include specific data points without adequate knowledge or consideration of where or why the samples were collected, when they were taken, or the naturally occurring background levels for those substances throughout the Susquehanna County area. The end result is an unwarranted investigation and unnecessary delivery of water."

5. When do you expect to have the first results?

6. What exactly is EPA doing in Washington County?

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/12044/1209896-503-0.stm>

7. Between Dimock and Washington County, it appears EPA is ramping up its investigations in Pennsylvania. Does EPA believe Pa. DEP is doing an inadequate job? As I understand it, the state agency has primary jurisdiction and responsibility for enforcing federal environmental laws. If you believe DEP is performing as it should, then why are these investigations necessary? Are they simply duplicative?

Many thanks,

Mike

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